

# NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BUSH ADMINISTRATION PLAYING AL QAEDA ROULETTE WITH PASSENGER PLANE SECURITY**

WASHINGTON, DC: Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA), a senior Member of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, released the following statement the Transportation Security Administration issuing guidelines regarding the limited, random screening of cargo on commercial planes.

“The Transportation Security Administration’s plan to randomly screen a small percentage of air cargo leaves the security of passengers to chance. The Bush Administration should not be playing Russian Roulette, or more appropriately in this case, Al Qaeda Roulette with the security of passengers on American airplanes. This holiday season, American families should not have to rely on random security checks - comprehensive inspections of 100% of the cargo on passenger planes is needed, just like 100% of the passengers and luggage is screened at security checkpoints. ‘Random’ is just another way of saying ‘haphazard.’”

“Random inspections of unknown cargo on passenger planes provides only slightly more security to passengers than the security system in place before September 11, 2001. More than two years later, the Bush Administration is still listening to the cargo and airline industries instead of pilots, flight attendants, and ordinary Americans. We can do better and we must do more to ensure the security of millions of airline passengers. ”

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